



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING




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MEMORANDUM

TO: LEA and ISD Superintendents
Public School Academy Directors and Authorizers
Middle and High School Principals

FROM: Jeremy M. Hughes, Ph.D. 
Deputy Superintendent/Chief Academic Officer

DATE: December 15, 2006

SUBJECT: High School Content Expectations and Guidelines

To assist you in the implementation of the new state high school graduation requirements, the Michigan Department of Education has developed, and will be sending you under separate cover, various quantities of two notebooks containing the *Michigan Merit Curriculum High School Content Expectations (HSCE)*, and the *Michigan Merit Curriculum Course/Credit Requirements*.

The large notebook contains the *HSCE* for English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science, and will have a place holder for Social Studies. The smaller notebook contains the *Course/Credit Requirements* for English 9, English 10, Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, Precalculus, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Earth Science, and guidelines for Visual, Performing and Applied Arts, and the Online Learning Experience.

The content of these notebooks is the result of thousands of hours of work by dedicated teachers, curriculum specialists, parents, administrators, professional organizations, higher education, and Michigan Department of Education staff.

Combined, these sets will provide you and your staff with a common understanding of what educators worldwide believe is important for students to learn, and specifically what students should know and be able to do for credit under the new law.

Included in each notebook is a form to complete to ensure you receive the remaining *HSCE* and credit expectations or guidelines currently under development by the Department. In addition, to ensure all staff have access to these important documents, this form may also be used to order additional notebooks or notebook

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materials on a cost plus basis from our production and distribution partner, Central Michigan University's Educational Materials Center (EMC). All materials in these notebooks may be reproduced or downloaded for free off the Department's high school web site at www.michigan.gov/highschool. This site also contains additional information, including a detailed completion schedule of *HSCE* and course/credit requirements, presentations, companion documents and more.

Notebook Distribution

Each Intermediate School District will receive three copies of each notebook for their reference and use. Local districts and PSAs will also receive three sets for their school board president, central office, and curriculum director.

Each high school will receive several sets of notebooks. The actual number will be based on student count information. For example, a small school may receive three sets, while a larger school may receive 11. Each school that has middle school students will receive a set. **Please alert your receiving department that these boxes of notebooks will be coming.**

Beyond the notebooks, the Department has organized dozens of informational *HSCE* rollouts, developed numerous companion documents, power point presentations, a Frequently Asked Questions document, and publications on the Michigan Merit Curriculum, such as Leading Change and Eduguides on the Michigan Merit Curriculum. These are available on the [MDE high school web page](http://MDE.highschoolwebpage).

Coming Soon By Mail -- Information By Students For Students

Beyond providing information to educators, the Michigan Department of Education has developed, in partnership with the Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals, a new DVD produced by students for students. This DVD will help students learn more about the new graduation requirements in a visual and enjoyable way. We hope once you receive this DVD, you will encourage staff to allow students to view it at student assemblies, in various classes, at parent meetings, etc. It will also be available to download and view on the MDE web at www.michigan.gov/highschool.



As educators, we all want Michigan students to succeed. While the Michigan Merit Curriculum will require change, it will also provide students the learning opportunity, knowledge and skills they need to succeed in college and the workplace.

Thank you for your hard work and dedication. Please contact Mary Selden at seldenm@michigan.gov if you have questions.